

## Using *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® in ECEAP 2014-15

### **GOLD® ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION:**

- All ECEAP contractors use *Teaching Strategies GOLD*® Online under the DEL license to assess all ECEAP children. This allows us to report statewide ECEAP child assessment results and increases alignment with the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS).
- DEL pays Teaching Strategies, LLC directly for “child portfolios” for ECEAP children. This is the per-slot cost of using *GOLD*® Online. Contractors may purchase additional child portfolios for other funding sources from Teaching Strategies, LLC at the discounted DEL rate of \$9.95 per slot.

If you are an ECEAP contractor that has not started using *GOLD*®, or you need to renew your subscription for portfolio slots, contact Taylor Jenkins at (301)634-0818 ext.1816 or [taylor.j@teachingstrategies.com](mailto:taylor.j@teachingstrategies.com)

- ECEAP contractors receive a subscription agreement listing your total number of *GOLD*® Online “child portfolios.” For some contractors, this includes your ECEAP slots and additional slots you purchase.

### ***Q: Will DEL pay for additional ECEAP slots above my funded enrollment level?***

A: No. This is not necessary with *GOLD*® Online. When an ECEAP child exits, archive their *GOLD*® record. This frees up an active online portfolio for another child.

### ***Q: My program currently has a bridge between ChildPlus and GOLD®. Can I still do that with the DEL agency license?***

A: Contractors that have a ChildPlus bridge can continue under the DEL license. Please contact ChildPlus directly to discuss that agreement and pay related fees.

### **ELMS and Teaching Strategies *GOLD*® Online**

Teaching Strategies *GOLD* is now set up with site, class, teacher and child data from ELMS. It updates twice weekly. Soon it will update daily.

- This does not apply to ECEAP contractors who use a Child Plus bridge with *GOLD*®.
- Site, class, teacher and child names entered in ELMS display in *GOLD*®.
- The information from ELMS is matched with data already in *GOLD*®. If you choose to hand-enter data in *GOLD*® at any time, be sure to use the legal names used in ELMS.
- No previously-entered *GOLD* data is lost.
- The child birthdates, gender, language, race, ethnicity, and IEP status from ELMS are added to *GOLD*®.

- Each child is automatically marked with ECEAP as their Funding Source in GOLD®. You no longer need to do this by hand.
- If you transfer a child between classes in ELMS or change anything in ELMS, it automatically updates GOLD.
- Teachers continue to have separate logins for ELMS and for GOLD®.

#### **DEL ACCESS TO GOLD® DATA:**

- DEL can access all GOLD® child data entered under the DEL agency license. DEL will only report on ECEAP children. DEL has permission to access this data under the "Addendum to Online Services Agreement" that you signed with Teaching Strategies, LLC. Check with your agency and other funding sources such as Head Start, regarding confidentiality policies that may apply.

#### **GOLD® TRAINING:**

- DEL will pay for two days of in-person *Teaching Strategies GOLD®* training for ECEAP lead teachers, assistant teachers, education/child development coordinators and directors with options between fall 2014 and spring 2015.
- Dependent upon funding, DEL will provide lead teachers with an *Objectives for Development and Learning* if they do not already have this item.

#### **INTERRATER RELIABILITY CERTIFICATION:**

- Lead teachers are expected to test reliable within six months of their GOLD® training or within six months of the beginning of the school year. This strengthens the accuracy of the statewide data. There is no cost for the online interrater reliability test and it is available in English and Spanish.
- Education/child development coordinators are encouraged to test “reliable” as well. Completing the testing allows education coordinators to fully support their teaching staff who are implementing GOLD®.
- Each contractor’s GOLD® Online Administrator must set up this privilege for each user. ECEAP strongly encourages
  - teachers to complete the interrater reliability certification for the “preschool, including dual-language learners and children with disabilities” age-group.
  - The online test includes three child portfolios, to rate at your own pace within the six month time period.
  - The process takes about four hours to complete.
  - There is no limit to how many times teachers can take the interrater reliability test.
  - Teachers must score 80% to achieve interrater reliability certification.

***Q: What happens if a lead teacher is unable to pass the reliability certification process?***

A: Teachers can test, practice and retest multiple times. DEL will ask that the teacher continue to practice their skills, work with their education coordinator, or obtain further professional development with *GOLD*® Online.

***Q. Are the *GOLD*® content areas of Social Studies, Science and Technology, and The Arts part of the interrater reliability certification?***

A. No. The content areas are not part of the interrater reliability certification. *GOLD*® does not have an age progression for these content areas, and it's optional for ECEAP teachers to rate them.

***GOLD*® IMPLEMENTATION:**

Teachers are required to observe children throughout the school year and enter observations in the online version of *GOLD*®.

- Teachers rate all objectives within the following areas of *GOLD*®: Social Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy and Mathematics. The remaining *GOLD*® areas of development and learning (Science and Technology, Social Studies and The Arts) are optional for 2014-15.
- Teachers finalize their ratings for each child three times a year.
  - The Fall checkpoint is due November 15, 2014.
  - The Winter checkpoint is due February 28, 2015.
  - The Spring checkpoint is due May 30, 2015.

**\*\*Note:** For extended day, full year programs only: The Summer checkpoint is due August 31, 2015.
- Teachers complete the Home Language Survey on all children. If indicated, teachers assess children's English language acquisition using objectives 37 and 38. This assists teachers in planning to support children's language and literacy acquisition.
- Teachers are encouraged, but not required, to assess Spanish-speaking children with the Spanish language and literacy objectives.
- Archive old records; don't delete. ECEAP contractors and teachers do not delete ECEAP children from *GOLD*® Online after they exit the program. Once a child exits the program, your *GOLD*® Administrator will archive the child's record.
  - Archiving *GOLD*® Online child portfolios is free and unlimited with the DEL Teaching Strategies *GOLD*® agency license.
  - This frees up an active online portfolio for another child.
  - Archived records can be accessed later for reporting purposes.

***Q: How much documentation do I need to rate an objective?***

A: Please see page xix in the *Objectives for Development and Learning* Assessment book. “For some objectives, seeing a child perform a skill once is sufficient to make an informed decision. Other objectives need more evidence and documentation. There is no set number of observations or amount of documentation that must be collected in related to each objective.”

**Q: Does GOLD® online have spell check?**

A: GOLD® online has spell and grammar check in many text boxes, including the Documentation tab.

**Q: Who can delete a child?**

A: GOLD® Administrators should only delete a child’s portfolio if they were entered into GOLD® Online and never attended a class, or it is a duplicate record with no data. Portfolios can be undeleted within 90 days.

**Q: Can I transfer child portfolios between ECEAP sites or contractors?**

A: When you transfer a child in ELMS, they will be automatically transferred in GOLD.

**Q: Can I transfer a child’s electronic GOLD® portfolio to their kindergarten teacher?**

A: This will happen automatically. By agreement between DEL and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), an “ECEAP WaKIDS end of PreK report” is available to each child’s kindergarten teacher participating in WAKIDS in GOLD® online.

**GOLD® RESOURCES:**

- Teachers are encouraged to use “A Teacher’s Quick-Start Guide,” available at Teaching Strategies GOLD® Online. It offers detailed, screen-by-screen guidance for setting up your classes to finalizing data and generating reports. The guide is updated regularly and posted on GOLD®.
- Contractors can use all GOLD® ongoing training features, including narrated training modules, brief tutorials, webinars, and printable instruction guides.
- Watch ECEAP *Reminders and Links* for GOLD® implementation tips and registration information for training opportunities and live online webinars for teachers and administrators.

**ANALYZING GOLD® DATA:**

- Contractors can create and share a variety of standard and customized reports in GOLD®:
  - Assessment Status
  - Widely Held Expectations
  - Performance and Growth
  - Snapshot
  - Growth Export
- Contractors must analyze aggregate child assessment data to inform:

- Teaching practices
- Curriculum decisions
- Professional development and staff training plan
- Program planning, including their service delivery plan

#### **ENGAGING FAMILIES IN THE PROCESS:**

- The Family Conference Form is an optional *GOLD*® resource. It is a great way for teachers to share assessment information with families and engage in collaborative goal setting.
- Contractors may choose to give parents access to the *GOLD*® Family website. The site allows families to use the *GOLD*® messaging system and event calendar, view weekly planning forms, documentation, and reports.

#### ***GOLD*® TECHNICAL SUPPORT:**

- Call 1-866-736 5913 or e-mail [techsupport@teachingstrategies.com](mailto:techsupport@teachingstrategies.com)
- Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET, Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET.

**QUESTIONS:** Ask your DEL Pre-K Specialist.